Massachusetts EWIS

Reflections on building a statewide system

PAS National Conference
October 23, 2019
What is the EWIS?

- Massachusetts Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS)
- Developed by DESE with AIR
  - Built off prior 9th grade indicator
- Identifies students who are at risk of missing key academic milestones in **grades 1–12**
- Provides student risk levels at the *beginning* of each school year
- Student-level and aggregate EWIS information is available via Security portal
What is the EWIS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Academic Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grades 1-3</td>
<td>Reading by the end of third grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 4-6</td>
<td>Middle school ready</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 7-9</td>
<td>High school ready</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 10-12</td>
<td>High school graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College Enrollment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Academic Readiness</td>
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<td></td>
<td>College Persistence</td>
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</table>

**Risk Levels (without interventions)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>High Risk</td>
<td>At Risk for not reaching the upcoming academic milestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Risk</td>
<td>Moderately at risk for not reaching the upcoming academic milestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Risk</td>
<td>Likely to reach the upcoming academic milestone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Early Warning Implementation Cycle

2012-13 SY

2016-17 SY

**Risk Levels**

- High Risk: At Risk for not reaching the upcoming academic milestone
- Moderate Risk: Moderately at risk for not reaching the upcoming academic milestone
- Low Risk: Likely to reach the upcoming academic milestone
The EWIS reports reflect their use

• **Big Picture: See overview and set priorities**
  o District/School Overview (K-12 & Postsecondary)

• **Dig Deeper: Explore patterns in the data**
  o Subgroup Report
  o Indicator Analysis Report (K-12 & Postsecondary)

• **Deep Dive: Identify student needs**
  o Student List (K-12 & Postsecondary)
  o Student level monitoring report
Cadre of tools to support EWIS Implementation Cycle

- Implementation Guide
- E-learning Tool (Reusable Learning Object)
- Videos
- Short Guides/resources
- Examples from the field
Outreach Strategies

• Offer face-to-face and virtual training opportunities
• Leverage partnerships with other organizations
  o MASCA (School Counselors)
  o MASSA (Secondary School Administrators)
  o Charter School
• Leverage small grants to seed usage in districts
• Keep users up-to-date with regular newsletter
• Link to other related tools and resources
Examples of Other Data Sources

- FAFSA
- Workforce Data
- PS outcome reports
- Dropout Data Tool
- School Climate Surveys
- Monitoring: Attendance and Suspension info

- Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Local student survey data
- SEL information
- Intervention Inventories
- Data from local SIS
Build, Refine, Adapt  *(Repeat)*

• **Build**
  - Infuse user voice in design
    - Pilot project with 9 districts in designing implementation guide
    - Focus groups and user testing for all reports designed
  - Don’t build all reports at once - see what unmet need was

• **Refine**
  - Ongoing feedback loop on tools developed and unmet need

• **Adapt**
  - Implementation Guide ➔ E-Learning Tool
  - Existing resources ➔ Short user friendly videos
Sustaining our momentum

• Developing a lot of content now, e.g., from grantees

• Building a speakers bureau of engaged users in the field

• Staff development and cross-training
Thank you!

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